

CLAIMS

Sub A2
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1. A method in an information card generating computer system for initializing and distributing information cards that contain configuration information for configuring a computer of a user, the method comprising:

4 receiving a request for an information card from a user of a user computer;
5 directing the execution of a program on the user computer that collects
6 configuration information from the user computer and sends the collected configuration
7 information to the information card generating computer system;
8 storing the configuration information on an information card; and
9 directing the distribution of the information card to the user so that the user can
10 use the information card to configure a computer that is capable of reading the information
11 card.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information relates to the configuration of a web browser.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information relates to access of electronic mail.

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4. The method of claim 1 including transferring the program that the collects the configuration information from the information card generating computer system to the user computer.

1 2 3
5. The method of claim 1 including storing information at the information card generating computer system indicating that an information card was generated for the user.

1 6. A method in a computer system for configuring a browser in accordance
2 with configuration information for a user, the method comprising:

3 receiving an indication to read an information card that contains browser
4 configuration information for a user, the information card being initialized based on browser
5 configuration information of a computer of the user;

6 in response to receiving the indication, reading the browser configuration
7 information from the information card; and

8 configuring the browser in accordance with the read browser configuration
9 information so that the user who uses the computer system will have the browser configured
10 like that component browser at the user's computer.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the browser configuration information
2 includes indications of web site addresses.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the browser configuration information
2 includes indication of a home web site.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the user uses the newly configured
2 browser and including the transmitting of information relating to the use to a central
3 computer.

1 10. The method of claim 6 wherein the user uses the newly configured
2 browser and including resetting the configuration of the browser when the user stops using
3 the browser.

1 11. The method of claim 6 wherein the browser does not display resources
2 of a web page whose size is above a threshold level.

Sub Q5

12. A computer system for allowing access to components that are configured in accordance with the configuration of a user's computer, comprising:

- a configurable component;
- an information card reader for reading configuration information for the configurable component from an information card, the information card being initialized based on configuration information specific to a user; and
- a configuration manager that directs the reading of the configuration information from the information card and that configures the configurable component in accordance with the read configuration information so that a user can then use the configurable component.

13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the configurable component is a browser.

14. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the configurable component is an electronic mail system.

15. A method for providing access to a computer system so that a component of that computer system is configured in accordance with user-specific information, the method comprising:

- collecting configuration information from a computer of a user;
- storing the collected configuration information on an information card;
- providing the information card to the user;
- under user control, providing the information card to the computer system with the component;
- retrieving the configuration information from the provided information card;
- and

11 configuring the component in accordance with the retrieved configuration
12 information so that the user may use the component that is configured in accordance with the
13 retrieved configuration information.

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16. The method of claim ~~14~~ wherein the component is a web browser.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the configuration information includes
2 an indication of a location through which the user's voice mail is accessible.

1 18. The method of claim 16 including storing on the information card
2 information for conducting a commercial transaction.

1 19. The method of claim 18 where the stored information for conducting a
2 commercial transaction includes credit card information.

1 20. The method of claim 15 wherein the component is an electronic mail
2 system.

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A1

1 21. A computer-readable medium that can be transported by a user and read
2 by a computer system that is accessible by multiple users, the medium containing a data
3 structure that includes:

4 an identification of a user; and
5 configuration information relating to configuration information of web browser
6 that includes an indication of the web browser, an indication of a home page of the web
7 browser, an indication of bookmarks established for the web browser, and an indication an
8 electronic mail server.

1 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the medium is
2 stored on an information card.